



James Donovan
... negotiator

GOP Asks To Query Donovan

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WASHINGTON — (AP) —

The Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee asked Tuesday for an opportunity to question Attorney James Donovan on his negotiations with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

The 13 Republicans sent a joint letter to Chairman Thomas E. Morgan (D., Pa.), asking him to call Donovan to testify.

Donovan negotiated the release of two batches of prisoners captured in the ill-fated 1961 invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

The Republicans said they felt "they and the American people deserved answers to the following questions:

"What was the exact role of James Donovan?

"Was he acting with the authority of the United States, or was he a private citizen acting in violation of the Logan Act (which forbids unauthorized persons dealing in public affairs with foreign governments)?

"... Was it wise for someone in the ambiguous position of Mr. Donovan to carry on negotiations which appear to entail weighty obligations for the government of the United States?

"What were the exact scope and nature of his conversations with Castro?"

The signers of the letter said reports of Donovan's relationships between government officials and procedures and Mr. Donovan's activities.